

many years has been successful in securing very interesting birds for the collection of the Musée du Congo belge.

I am most grateful to Dr. Charles Vaurie who made the comparison at New York and to Mr. J. D. Macdonald who examined the specimen collected by Fox. Dr. J. P. Chapin and Dr. H. Schouteden took as always a great interest in my collection and I am indebted to them for many useful suggestions. I would also like to thank Mr. R. E. Moreau for correcting my manuscript.

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A New Subspecies of *Parisoma layardi* Hartlaub

by DR. J. M. WINTERBOTTOM

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In *The Ostr.*, 28, 1957: 235, I drew attention to the fact that the type of *Parisoma layardi* Hartlaub, *Ibis*, 1862: 147 was labelled "Clanwilliam" although the type locality given by the describer was "Zwartland, Malmesbury District." At that time, the question was of purely academic interest; but a comparison of recent skins from the extreme South-West Cape with those from further north shows that the former are perceptibly darker above than the latter; and that a bird from Citrusdal, south of Clanwilliam, agrees with the northern rather than the southern birds. It is interesting to note that this darker colour of southern birds had already been observed by Andersson, *Bds. Damaral.*, 1872: 78-9. The type of *layardi* is too faded for it to be safe to rely on colour alone, though it does agree with the southern birds in that respect. But there is also a tendency for southern birds to be smaller than those from further north, in which the smallest bird of 19 measured had a wing of 65 mm., whereas two out of the four South-West Cape birds have wings of less than this; and the wing of the type is 64 mm. Under the circumstances, therefore, I propose to regard the type as wrongly labelled and the originally cited type locality as correct. This means that the name *layardi* must be restricted to the birds of the extreme South-West Cape and that the rest of the population, except that in the Basutoland mountains, which has been described as *barnesi* by Vincent (1948), is without a name. I name it as under:

Parisoma layardi aridicola subsp. nov.

Differs from *P.l.layardi* Hartlaub in its lighter and slightly more olive colour above, about Deep Olive Gray of Ridgway, as against the Dark to

Blackish Mouse Gray of *layardi*. It also averages slightly larger 9 ♂, 9 ♀, 1 o, wing 65–68 mm., av., 66.5; culmen, 13–17 mm., av. 15.1 (*layardi*, 4 ♂, 1 o, wing 63–67 mm., av. 64.8; culmen, 14–15 mm., av. 14.2). There is a suggestion that the ecological preferences are also different, *aridicola* being a bird of mountain kloofs, *layardi* of thick coastal scrub (see also Winterbottom, *l.c.*).

Type, in South African Museum, Cape Town, ♂, Noisabis, Richtersveld, Little Namaqualand, collected by J. M. Winterbottom, 25th March, 1958. Collector's number, 856; South African Museum number, 21565. Measurements: wing, 67 mm.; tail, 55 mm.; culmen, 16 mm.

Range.—The karoo areas of the Cape Province from Citrusdal and the Kammanassie Mts. north to the Okavango River (Andersson), southern Bechuanaland and the southern Orange Free State.

Material examined:

P.l.layardi, 5 (Swartland (type), Melkbos, Blaauwberg, Ysterfontein).

P.l.aridicola, 19 (Citrusdal, Vanrhynsdorp, Lokenburg, Kamieskroon, Numees, Noisabis (type), Wagenaarskraal, Beaufort West, Kammanassie Mts., Lootsberg Pass, Hanover, Swartmodder, Rooiberg).

The work on which this paper is based was done while the author held a Senior Bursary of the South African Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

The correct name of the Peregrine Falcon

by MR. C. W. MACKWORTH-PRAED

Received, 2nd June, 1958

With reference to previous communications from the late Captain Grant and myself on the correct name of the Peregrine Falcon, Bull. B.O.C.77, pp. 48–49 and p.116, 1957. Mr. H. G. Deignan has kindly written to me pointing out that *Falco japonensis* Gmelin, Syst. Nat. 1, p. 257, 1788, has considerable page priority over *Falco communis* same work p.270.

Falco japonensis has recently (Ibis, p.253, 1949) been identified by Dr. Stresemann as a Peregrine Falcon, a specimen of which flew on board Capt. Cook's ship off Japan.

It seems therefore that the name of the Peregrine Falcon must be *Falco japonensis* Gmelin, and the name of the Western European race *Falco japonensis communis* Gmelin.

A Species New to South Africa *Xema sabini* (Sabine)

by MR. R. LIVERSIDGE

Received 11th June, 1958

A specimen of Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini* has been taken off the Eastern Cape coast. This represents a new species to the seas of Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean.

Capt. G. M. Le Gras of the trawler "Cape Infanta" recognised the gull